DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 280 486 IR 051 845

TITLE IFLA General Conference, 1986. Libraries Serving the General Public Division. Section: Libraries for the Blind. Papers.

INSTITUTION International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, The Hague (Netherlands).

PUB DATE Aug 86

NOTE 53p.; Papers presented at the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) General Conference (52nd, Tokyo, Japan, August 24-30, 1986).

PUB TYPE Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Aesthetic Education; Audiodisks; *Blindness; Braille; Developed Nations; Directories; Foreign Countries; *International Cooperation; International Organizations; Library Associations; *Library Services; Program Descriptions; Public Libraries; *Visual Impairments

IDENTIFIERS Netherlands; Norway; Universal Availability of Publications; USSR

ABSTRACT

Papers on libraries for the blind presented at the 1986 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "Report on 'Study on the Tools to Improve the Availability of Library Materials for the Blind'" (Winnie Vitzansky, Denmark); (2) "Planning the Third Edition of 'The International Directory of Libraries for the Blind'" (Edwige Mortyr, Norway); (3) "Library Services to Visually Handicapped in Norway" (Else Granheim and Ka-Jo Carlsen, Norway); (4) "Integration or Disintegration--The Services of Libraries for the Blind in the Netherlands" (J. M. J. Dister, Netherlands); (5) "Universal Availability of Publications and Special Format Materials" (Lorraine McQueen, Canada); and (6) "Library Programme of the Artistic-Aesthetical Education of the Blind Citizens of Russia" (D. S. Zharkov, USSR). (KM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

ED280486

IFLA

General Conference

Libraries Serving the General Public Division

Section: Libraries for the Blind

Tokyo, Japan

August 1986

IR051845

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
A.L. Van Wesemael

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: Libraries Serving the General Public.
Section: Libraries for the Blind

1986

50-BLIND-1-E

Report on "Study on the Tools to Improve the Availability of Library Materials for the Blind"

by

Winnie Vitzansky
Deputy Director
The State Library and Printing
House for the Blind
Copenhagen, Denmark.

KEYWORD(S):

Availability
Interlending

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no: 114

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

0680

1. Background and development

At the IFLA conference in Munich 1983 the Section of Libraries for the Blind was asked by the IFLA Secretariat to take on a Unesco contract to carry out a study on the tools to improve the availability of materials for the blind.
Unesco wanted the study to contain the following:

1 - a brief summary of previous work in this area;

2 - a survey of lists and directories of institutions and libraries holding materials for the blind.
Those lists and directories should be evaluated according to the type of information they provided on activities concerning availability i.e. collections (and their catalogue) of books in braille and large prints, of talking books and other special materials for the blind, possibilities of loan, exchange, sale, reproduction upon request, etc....

3 - an investigation of the various means and mechanisms which might improve the availablity of materials for the blinds at the national and international levels, i.e. which help to make known and available to all potential users those materials. In particular, it should be investigated the pros and cons of solutions at the national,

sub-regional, regional and international levels or by linguistic areas;

4 - suggestions for actions : how to select and implement adequate mechanisms to improve availability.

The work should be completed by 29 February 1984 and Unesco should pay the contractor US $ 2.000.
The Section had very little time to discuss the contract and its conditions in Munich, but in the discussions, which did take place, espescially the lack of an international directory of catalogeus of library materials for the blind was stressed. Therefore the Section decided to seize the opportunity despite the many obvious odds against the project. The contract was signed in the middle of september 1983 and, the project was organized in this way:

Clifford Law, Chief Librarian, Library Service for the Handicapped, National Library of Australia took on part 1 and 2, Edwige Mortyr, Library Director Norwegian Association of the Blind, Norway took on part 3 and 4, and Winnie Vitzansky, Deputy Director The State Library and Printing House for the Blind, Denmark should co-ordinate and supervise the project.

Within its first two months the project had experienced two major mail strikes, one in Australia and one in the Netherlands and was forced to apply for a respite.

Despite the uncertain situation work was carried out as planned, mainly because of the never failing moral support of the IFLA Secretariat.

In October 1983 Edwige Mortyr mailed 18 questionnaires to Nordic producers of library materials for the blind. The Nordic contries were chosen as an example for the regional study in part 3 of the project. The reason for this choice was the relative clearness of the situation in this region, its well developed library systems, the traditionally good co-operation between these countries and not least the nationalities of the author of part 3 and the co-ordinator of the project! In November 1983 Edwige Mortyr had finished compilation, and this first result was sent to Unesco.

A first draft of the questionnaire for the "International Survey of Lists and Catalogues of Institutions and Libraries Holding Library Material for the Blind was designed by Clifford Law in December 1983, and the questionnaire was mailed to 425 institutions in late March 1984. Reminders were mailed in May and August 1984.

In the meanwhile Unesco had refused to postpone the deadline. The contract was cancelled and in April 1984 IFLA accepted to change the project into an IFLA project, also IFLA found possibilities to cover the money foreshadowed for the Australian

part of the project.

In the summer of 1985 a first draft of "International Directory of Libraries for the Blind" was compiled by Clifford Law and Kathty Moignard on the basis of 212 responses.

This first draft was sent to all Standing Committee members of the Section of Libraries for the Blind in September 1985 for proofreading, and on the basis of their reports a final edition was compiled and approved by the Standing Committee of the Section in January 1986.

Negotiations on the publication of the Directory are at present taking place.

At the Standing committee meeting in January 1986 it was also decided that the project should be concluded by a paper, summarizing the development and experiences of the project.

Finally I shall quote some figures from the record of the administration of the project: 58 letters and 11 cables are exchanged, 21 telephone conversations have taken place, all of these mainly between Canberra, Copenhagen. The Hague and Oslo, 4 meetings were held in Copenhagen, two of these all-day meetings, and 7 reports were written.

2. Evalution

Out of this work has come one tangible ressult: An International Directory of Libraries for the Blind., This directory is to be considered as a second edition of International Directory of

Libraries and Production Facilities for the Blind, edited by Frank Kurt Cylke and Peter Hanke, and published by National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress and the Section of Libraries for the Blind in 1984. Compared to this pioneer work of the Section the new edition holds more entries, detailed catalogue information for each library, and it is updated. An unquestionable achrievement in the current work of making information available to blind people.

Still it is the mutual opinion of all involved in this project that the most important a achievement is the experience we have gained while doing the job.
The experiences fall in to two categories, one is about the process of collection and editing the data, the other one is about the fundamental question; how do we improve the availability of materials for the blind?

Collecting and editing data for an international directory of libraries for the blind.

In the following I shall list some of the major problems experienced by the compilors:

1. Incompleteness of international lists of libraries for the blind.

The backbone of any international survey is a reliable maling list. The National Library of Australia consequently put a lot of effort innto creating a comprehensive mailing list from existing directories. Still many questionnaires were returned undelivered, many addresses were inaccurate, and perhaps even worse the compilors were left with the suspicion of having left out important institutions whose existence were not known to any of the previous compilors in this field.
On the whole a reflection of the fact that library service for the blind is a very new international diciplin.

2. Response rate.

As mentioned in the report 212 responses were received out of 425 mailed questionnaires. This result is based on two reminders. Compared to the standard of international surveys this is not a poor response rate, but the fact remains that more than half of the institutions contacted did not respond, and this fact diminishes the value of the completed survey.

One of the more obvious possible reasons for lack of response is the language problem since the questionnaires were in English only.

3. Editing of responses.

The questionnaire was designed by Nationsl Library of Australia in co-operation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Before mailing the questionbnaire had been tested by members of the Section of Libraries for the Blind, and their suggestions had been incorporated in the final questionnaire.
Still it was evident from the responses that many questions had been ambiguous and difficult to understand.

When taking into account that the receivers of the questionnaire consisted of well established libraries systems

in the developed countries as well as tiny agencies in the developing countries it is evident how defficult it is to create a questionnaire totally unambiguous and understandably for everyone.

Another aspect of the same problem appeared in the Nordic Study. Though all the receivers were very much alike - at least compared to the international survey - the data from the responses proved difficult to compare because of lack of international standards in this field.

4. The network of libraries for the blind .

A major problem experienced by both the international survey and the Nordic study was the discovery of the inadequacy of a traditional directory of single institutions holding collections when trying to create a tool to facilitate international loan.
Knowledge of the national loan structure as well as the international one - or in many cases their non-existence - is essential, and this aspect was not covered by the survey.

The problem is outlined very clearly in a report from Kathy Moignard of National Library of Australia to me in May, 1985 and I take the liberty of quoting her:

"However, in the overall context of the purpose of the survey, our most basic problem was not the inadquacy of our coverage but rather our inability to judge the adequacy of our coverage. A principal aim of our survey was to facilitate international loan of library material for the blind. A would-be borrower of books in a particular language dose not necessarily need to know the name and address of every library for the blind in the country whose national language it is. It may be sufficient and indeed appropiate to contact only a single central coordinating

library or a bibliographic agency with access to national union catalogue.

A single entry for a country may be quite adequate in these cases, or indeed when there is only a single library for the blind in the country. On the other hand, a half dozen entries will be quite inadequte when there are 12 major independent libraries in the country.

Our questionnaire treated libraries as self-contained units; we discovered that in the modern world it is impossible to understand individual libraries catalogues and policies without an overall understanding of the context in which they operate. Shared cataloguing, union catalogues and the central production of catalogue records for distribution to separate institutions are facts of the modern world and are often more important for the bibliographic control of national resources than the separate catalogues of individual libraries. Sometimes bodies responsible for national cataloguing themselves have no colection or only a very minimal collection. Libraries in this position may not have received or responded to our

questionnaire which was directed specifically to institutions with collections for the blind. Coordination of lending is now widespread. To questions about international loan policy some libraries noted that requests

should be sent to other libraries or institutions in the same country; while this may indicate a simple unwillingness to lend it may also indicate in many cases a nationally coordinated loan policy."

How do we improve the availability of materials for the blind?

And this brings me to the second catogory of experiences - the fundamental problem of how to improve to availability of materials for the blind.

It is implied in this whole project that the knowledge of what material exists and where it is located is a major step towards improving the availability of imformation for blind people.

This assumption has been shared by the Section of Libraries for the blind. The first project undertaken by this Section was the previously mentioned "International Directory of Libraries and Production Facilities for the Blind" and already now a second edition has been produced.

I believe that this assumption is correct, but when dealing with materials for the blind this issue is a much lesser part of the availability problem than we are used to when speaking of printed material.

The mutual experience of Clifford Law, Edwige Mortyr and myself is that if we should have given a proper answer to the problems in this study as set by Unesco it would have been necessary to

broaden the project considerably - actually it would have been necessary to go into the full range of areas, defined by the Section of Libraries for the Blind as obstacles for the free flow of imformation for the blind:

- copyright
- standardization of material
- relaxation of postal regulations and costum laws
- bibliographic control

And even more important - as we are talking about solutions to the problem of availability of materials for the blind - we also should have dealt with the issue which is really the heart of the matter:

material for the blind is not available because it does not exist.

The fact is that only a tiny percentage of the information available to sighted people is transciled into media which the blind person can use.
The solution to this is very simple to phrase and not all that simple to implement:

National programs of production ad distribution of material for the blind giving the library service for the blind fair priority within the total library structure of each country.

3. Conclusion

So what to conclude from all the reservations I have put forward to our results - was it all a waste of the Section´s time and IFLA´s money?
To me is seems that the way the task was set by Unesco from the very start was unrealistic: the time limit of 6 months was not
realistic, a budget of U.S.$ 2.000 could only cover a minor part of the actual costs, and last but not least the goals of the task were not sufficiently operational.

But we were not unaware of all these problems when we took on the task, and answering for myself as co-ordinator of the project IFLA and my collaborators might have a different opinion - Yes, I believe it was worthwhile.

We now have a second edition of the International Directory of Libraries for the Blind, more comprehensive than the first edition, we have collected and verblalised a number of experiences which should enable us to make new editions in a more qualified way. We have also learned that the backbone of all work in the Section - the mailing list - had many inaccuracies and blanks.

This reveals - if we should have forgotten it - that we are still doing pioner work, and it is my hope that this project

will make the Section of Libraries for the Blind assume the responsibility of current compilation of directories of libraries for the blind as well as up-dating and maintenance of comprehensive addresslist of these institutions all over the world at an even higher profissional level that to-day.

If it works out that way the work of Clifford Law and Edwige Mortyr has been a major achievement and a step for ward for the professional standard of the Section of Libraries for the Blind.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO
1986
Division: Library Serving the General Public
Section: Libraries for the Blind

94-BLIND-2-E

Planning the third edition of "The International Directory of Libraries for the Blind."

A project as a result of "Study on the Tools to Improve the Availability of Library Materials for the Blind".

by

Edwige Mortyr
Library Director
Norwegian Association of the Blind
Oslo, Norway

KEYWORD(S):

Availability

For internal use only:
To be brought to meeting no:
114
Remarks:
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

1168

Planning the third edition of "The International Directory of Libraries for the Blind"

1. Background

The International Directory of Libraries and Production Facilities for the Blind, was published in 1984.

The International Directory of Libraries for the Blind, considered as a 2nd edition, will be published in 1986.

Comparing the two directories the second edition does not substitute the first.

Though the 2nd edition holds more entries, more detailed catalogue information, some of the entries in the 2nd edition do not appear in the first, and vice versa.

This fact requires a comparing of the 2 directories, and the merging of all entries in both directories.

2. Steps to improve information in the third edition

Every entry in the 1st edition will have to be added to the equivalent entry of the second.

Information given under each entry will have to be compared to a standard lay-out of how an entry and information shall be given.

The standard will have to be elaborated by the Section of Libraries for the Blind.

The existing information will have to be considered in order to find out what is missing under various entries.

After merging the 2 directories, there will be needed a new set of questions to complete the information. A new questionnaire should give the standard for information on each subject under an entry.

In the third edition it would be more complete to give an answer on every subject, and not omit some of the questions. This may make the use of the directory easier, both to compare the different entries, and for up-dating later on.
The compilation of the two directories and the new questionnaire should be sent all libraries/institutions already known.

3. Language

Will a questionnaire in English only be satisfactory? Previous experience tells us that we ought to have questionnaires in several languages. The question is how many languages?

4. Co-ordinators

The collecting of data and up-dating for the third edition should be based on an international net-work.
Responsible persons in different parts of the world will secure a more complete and close following up of the questionnaire. The Section will have to discuss how many persons should be involved and how the co-ordinating may be handled. Will it be necessary to have only one person responsible on each continent, or one for each language area, regional area or one in each country? In some parts of the world it may be sufficient with one person covering a geographical region, in other parts it may be necessary with one person in each country. Members of the Section will know the most practical and realistic way.

5. Copyright

The compilation of the two directories ought to be made by a computer. Computerised data will facilitate up-dating corrections, new entries and so forth. In addition it will be

easy to have indexes in whatever subject needed. The Section should decide upon the different indexes needed.

The Section will depend on some large library system with computer facilities to be the "host" for the directory.

The "hosting" may last for an unknown length of time. The Section will be the responsible owner of the data.

The Section must have an assurance that no copyright problems will rise from "hosting", processing and publishing the directory, even if it is published in another country than where the data have been treated.

6. Financing

The collecting, compilation and processing of data will have to be handled free of charge.

To publish a 3rd edition, contact must be established with a publishing house. In this case the most obvious is K.G. Saur Verlag, though of course not a necessity.

7. Intentions behind a third editon

"If resources are to be used they must be shared. In order to be shared, locations, holdings, and services must be widely known."

Quoted from the preface of the International Directory of Libraries and Production Facilities for the Blind, 1984.

One of the major obstacles for using an international directory is the lack of knowledge of the national loan structures.

A pilot project on national loan structures is undertaken by Allan Leach, Chairman of the Section, in co-operation with library schools in the U.K. The Pilot study should be finished before IFLA conference in Brighton 1987. This is the first step

for a new project for an international survey on National loan structures of library materials for the blind.

A widespread and well known international directory may influence the national policy of libraries for the blind or establish one.

The need to follow international standard bibliographic description, the establishing of a national loan structure may be some of the effect of the directory.

Another issue may be that more libraries, institutions, organizations want to share their resources in order to take part in other ones, and then register in the directory.

Our aim must be to change the attitude and concept in many libraries for the blind, to make everyone part in an international net-work.

The planning for a third edition of the International directory is only one of the strategies necessary.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: Libraries serving the General Public
Section: Libraries for the Blind

1986

95-BLIND-3-E

Library Services to Visually Handicapped in Norway

by

Else GRANHEIM
Director
Norwegian Directorate for Public and School Libraries
Oslo, Norway

and

Ka-Jo CARLSEN
Library Adviser
Norwegian Directorate for Public and School Libraries
Oslo, Norway

KEYWORD(S):

For internal use only:
To be brought to meeting no: 142

Remarks:
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

LIBRARY SERVICES TO VISUALLY HANDICAPPED IN NORWAY

Present situation.

In Norway talking books and books in Braille are produced and made available for lending to the blind and visually impaired by the Central Library owned by the Norwegian Association of the Blind. According to the Norwegian Copyright Act talking books can only be made available on loan, and then only to certain groups. They are not for sale, not even to public libraries.

Those entitled to borrow talking books are persons with an impairment which prevents them from reading ordinary books, such as: the visually impaired, certain persons with reduced mobility, persons suffering from aphasia, multiple sclerosis and some other chronic illnesses.

Users of talking books are entirely dependent on the service they get from the Association of the Blind's Central Library in Oslo and two smaller branches in other parts of the country.

The borrowers have the books sent to them by post. Very few live so close that they can go to the library themselves - or have relatives to go there for them. Communi-

cation between user and library has mostly to be by post or telephone, to a great extent long distance calls, which means great expense. Postal delivery is slow, as no priority is given to this kind of post. Talking books are sent postage free as "Articles for the blind".

During recent years there has been an increasing demand that handicapped persons should as far as possible be integrated into schools, professions, and community activities, including of course public library services.

As a first step state grants for library service to the visually handicapped were moved from the budget for the Ministry of Social Affairs to the Ministry of Culture. However, in our field there has been a growing opinion that the public authorities should undertake the full responsibility for the provision of literature and library services for the blind and visually impaired, even more so as the major part of the expense is already paid by the state.

There is also another reason for that attitude. Public libraries are today developing into information-centers in general, and these information-centers should also be the natural place to turn to, for the different groups of handicapped people. This task can never be taken care of in an acceptable way by the centralised library belonging to a voluntary association.

We do belive that the majority of the members of the Nor-

wegian Parliament today are in favour of transfering this library to the public authorities, but this in itself is not enough to alter the whole structure of the library service. We must also remember that Copyright legislation limits our use of talking books and these books will not be any cheaper to produce and copy in the future.

But will a fully decentralised service from the ordinary public libraries be possible and an advantage to the visually handicapped in general? Before answering this question, it's necessary to give an idea of the geografic conditions, population pattern and the library structure of Norway.

Facts about Norway.

Norway is a long and narrow country as you will know from the map. If we turn it upside down, the inhabitants of the far north would find themselves in Italy. The population is only around four million. This means 13 per square kilometer on average and although half of the population live in the south-eastern part of the country we also find people living on the islands and along the fiords. Transport conditions are not easy either as we have lots of mountains, long valleys and deep fiords. The country is divided into 454 municipalities which are independent administrative units with responsibility for among other things their own public library system. The Norwegian Library Act requires all municipalities to offer

quite well developed public library service to all their residents. However many of these municipalities are very small. To give an idea of this we can mention that of the 454 municipalities 250 - more than half of them - have less than 5000 inhabitants.

All the public libraries in Norway are however linked together in a national network through county libraries. These 19 county libraries have a very important task to fill as a supplement to all the small libraries, to give advice as to the running of them and to help with planning of their activities. There is also extensive activity in many fields between the different county libraries.

The future library service to impaired users.

With this background how can future library service to reading impaired borrowers best be organized? The ideal solution would of course be that the visually impaired and all other handicapped readers could call at their local library for all the literature and information they want in the same way as the rest of us do. But when considering the size of the majority of the public libraries and knowing that very few visually handicapped and others needing this media live in most of these municipalities, we must find more realistic solutions.

It seems obvious that centralised service from one large library will never be able to provide a personal service

to all users. A link between a central library preferably run by public authorities and the national public library system, developed step by step in cooperation, will probably be the best solution. As soon as possible talking books should be transferred to the northern part of the country, to one of the county libraries there. Borrowers in this area should get their service from that library. This should cut down postage time, and as a result give a quicker service. Expensive long distance phone calls would also be reduced.

A decentralised service calls for more qualified staff, but instead of adding to the staff in the Central Library in Oslo, some of the county libraries should be given more staff in order to take care of talking books in their county or region. Other county-libraries could join the services step by step. This model should gradually be expanded. In the meantime deposit collections should be sent out.

There should also be made arrangements for public libraries that want to offer this kind of service, first of all libraries which already have an active outreach library service to disabled persons in their municipality and which are big enough to have qualified staff to take on this kind of duty.

Based on the fact that the majority of our library units are so small, it should be obvious that there is no point in decentralising talking books to all of these units.

That would just be a waste of time, money, and space.

What should not be forgotten in this current context is however the necessity of training all librarians in charge of a public library unit, however small, to act as a link between handicapped users of all kinds and other libraries which are able to meet their demands. Active information work will be needed. There should now be every possibilty to succeed in this task, as it is now established in the new Public Library Act that each municipality, however small, shall have a professionally qualified librarian.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT NORWAY

Population:	4 134 527 persons
Counties:	19
Municipalities, total:	454
Municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants:	250
Inhabitants pr. square kilometre:	13 persons
Length of the country from south to north:	2 500 kilometres
Total land area:	370 618 square kilometres
Total population in various areas (approximately):	
Eastern Norway:	50% of the population
Southern Norway:	5% of the population
Western Norway:	25% of the population
Middle Norway:	9% of the population
Northern Norway:	11% of the population

There is no national registration of blind and visually impaired persons. The number of blinds and visually handicapped persons corresponds proportionally with the population in the various areas.

According to calculations in comparable countries there may be 13 276 blind and visually impaired persons, 0,36% of the population.

Registered persons in the Norwegian Association of the Blind: 9 025 persons, 0,22% of the population.

Persons borrowing from the Central Library: 5 512 persons, 60% of the registered persons.

60% of the library users are more than 60 years old, 10% have handicaps other than blindness. This last group is increasingly active as library borrowers.

1180

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

1986

Division: Libraries Serving the General Public
Section: Libraries for the Blind

96-BLIND-4-E

Integration or disintegration
The services of libraries for the blind
in The Netherlands

by

J.M.J. DISTER
Director Netherlands Library for the Blind
The Hague, The Netherlands

KEYWORD(S):

Libraries for the blind;
print-handicapped
library-user

For internal use only:
To be brought to meeting no: 142

Remarks:
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

Integration or disintegration

The services of libraries for the blind in The Netherlands

---

1. Introduction

Before going into the service of reading-materials for the blind and the partially blind in The Netherlands, it is desirable to give a rough insight of the range of public libraries and libraries for the blind by means of a few figures.

	Public Libraries	Libraries for the blind	
number of establishments	- 12 country libraries (PBC) - 400 municipal libraries - 100 selfsupporting public libraries, incl. 400 offices	6 co-ordinated by the Central Bureau (NBLC) (Association of users and the library for the blind)	
Range of collection		braille	spoken
	titles: -	38.000	60.000
	copies: 38 million	60.000	240.000
		journals	
		42	156
number of users:	4 million	2.000	18.000
number on loan:	179 million	16.000	740.000
average number on loan per user:	45	8	44

2. Startingpoint of the library's policy

The aim of the public libraries, formulated in 1978 is, as follows: "The free movement of information in Dutch society is promoted by placing it at everyone's disposal". The free movement of information is a basic condition for a democratic society. It is everyone's right, by means of equal rights to information for the sighted, the blind and the partially blind. Libraries for the blind belong to the Public Libraries. They are Public

Libraries with a special assignment and a national working area.

There are two possibilities upon which the above mentioned starting points can be pursued.

1) The making of decentralized collections of braille and talking reading-materials by public libraries supported by a national library for the blind. This, I call the Scandinavian alternative.
2) The making of a central collection of braille and talking reading-material by national libraries for the blind. Distribution, with regard to catalogues and loans by mail post. This, I call the Dutch alternative.

There are advantages and disadvantages connected with both these possibilities.

ad 1) Decentralized collections of Public Libraries

advantages: one and the same library provision for both sighted and visually handicapped.

disadvantages:
- a large number of smaller collections
- no guarantee of making a sufficient collection, unless this is settled legally
- they have become indispensable through the delay in interlibrary loans
- reproduction is expensive through a large supply
- many unremunerative titles.

ad 2) Centralized collection; production and distribution by national libraries for the blind

advantages:
- library collection under control
- library collection available via cumulative catalogues in various reading forms
- lower costs for storage
- more money remains for production and increasing collections
- quicker deliveries
- the stock has a higher circulation
- interlibrary lending via public library is possible

disadvantages: - separate services on behalf of the visually handicapped.

3. The distribution of tasks between Public Libraries and Libraries for the Blind in The Netherlands

The production, reproduction and distribution of adapted reading-materials on behalf of the blind and partially sighted, is legally appointed to the six libraries for the blind. The production and reproduction expenses are fully paid for by the government and the distribution costs for 90%. Apart from the libraries for the blind there are no other producers of braille or talking reading-materials. In contrast to Scandinavia, the NBLC hasn't got this task, and there are also no Dutch commercial concerns which have succeeded in bringing profit-making talking reading-materials on the market. The Library for the Blind enjoys exemption from copyright. Distribution is sent, mainly via the post. Talking books, which are supplemented by PBC's and several large public libraries, are lent out to visually and otherwise handicapped people from exchange collections, which are made available to them by the libraries for the blind. Of late years, more and more handicapped are making use of the libraries for the blind. The talking book collection in these libraries is large enough to satisfy this demand. The public libraries have both the need for talking reading-materials on behalf of the dyslexic, illiterate, mentally handicapped, foreign employees and similar minority groups. For that purpose, an agreement was reached between the libraries for the blind and the NBLC on the basis that the public libraries buy talking books from the libraries for the blind. The public library does pay copyright for these books. The libraries for the blind take care of any repairs to the cassettes. This form of co-operation will be evaluated in 1987. I can now inform you that this experience has proved mutually positive. About 50 titles are sold annually, with an average edition of 80 copies.

The co-operation between the libraries for the blind and the public libraries will be further extended in the field of cataloguing. It is the intention that the automated central catalogue of the joint Dutch libraries for the

blind (CCBB) is to be included in the PICA file. (PICA = Dutch databank of the scientific and public libraries). By incorporation of the CCBB in PICA, the entire Dutch possession of braille and talking books is made available via the scientific and public libraries. They can refer their users, who have been considered for postal loans after a first introduction to talking reading-materials, to the libraries for the blind to help any hesitation.

4. Integration or disintegration of the blind and partially-sighted

The main issue of this meeting, is how the integration of visually handicapped can best be reached. Via the public libraries or via the national working libraries for the blind.

In my opinion, the question as to what extent a library supply satisfies the demand of integration is dependant on the degree one succeeds in bringing together the supply and demand of braille and talking reading-materials.

1) The supply of the braille and talking book collection, per subject and per kind (fiction/non-fiction) is greater or equal to the demand of the user.
2) The selection of desired information by the users is done themselves.

ad 1) In 1985, a users inquiry was carried out by the libraries for the blind. With braille, the supply is much greater than the demand. The policy, therefore, has been changed. Thanks to modern technology, the production has become more and more a production on request. Each required title, fiction or non-fiction, can be produced at short notice. Likewise, with the talking books it became evident that the supply was just as great as the demand. Only with the historical and religious novels did the supply appear smaller than the demand. The final conclusion has been that both the supply of books as well as journals, is greater or equal to the demand, and that the satisfaction of the blind and the partially blind user is said to be very high. 80-90% is satisfied.

ad 2) Annually 3,500 talking titles are added to the Dutch collection. These

are nearly all Dutch novels or novels translated into Dutch, while the reading materials for studies is produced on request. By means of annual cumulative authors' catalogues, various cumulative categories or subject catalogues and news bulletins, it is possible for the blind and partially blind user to make his own book choice. A large number of regional volunteers are available to assist, if required. My theory is then, that The Netherlands has succeeded in this via a national library supply for the blind and partially sighted, making the starting-point, "right to information", secure.

5. Future outlook

Information-technology is developing new communication systems. Interactive systems exist in which the citizen tries to trace and obtain the desired information via telecommunication and datafiles. In the future, thanks to technology the blind and partially blind can retain their right to information. Data communication systems can be made accessible for the blind and partially blind via paperless braille devices, large print screens and synthetic speech devices.

Libraries for the blind will have to bestow more to the field of journal documentation. It is the task of the national library for the blind to be knowledgeable and willing to help with the information explosion, with which the visually handicapped come into contact. The task of the library for the blind in the future can be divided into five sections.

1) Formulating the question. Library staff members are helpful in compiling the information needed.

2) Finding the keywords for the concerned databanks. The library staff, trained and acquainted with referring to the various databanks, helps with the consultation of these files.

3) Acquisition of the text in digital form. The required information is eighter obtained in inkprint and on fixed magnetic

tape, or obtained in digital form.

4) Translation of the text into braille of talking form. The required information is translated into the desired reading form by the library for the blind.

5) Availabilities at a person's disposal.

- Braille and talking reading-materials are distributed by post.
- digital information is received at home, in braille, large print or spoken output, by telecommunication and input and output devices.

University libraries and larger public libraries also have to be provided with input and output devices, through which they can provide for the needs of the blind and the partially blind immediately. Close teamwork and task delimitation with the library for the blind will have to take place.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

1986

Division:

Section: LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND

104-BLIND-5-E

UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIAL FORMAT MATERIALS

by

Lorraine McQUEEN

National Library of Canada, Public Service Branch
OTTAWA; Canada

KEYWORD(S):

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no: 114

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

1268

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

August, 1986

UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIAL FORMAT MATERIALS

by

Lorraine McQueen

National Library of Canada

The Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) was a guiding concept in the formation of the National Library of Canada's national coordinated programme of library services for disabled persons. During the International Year of Disabled Persons, Flora Patterson, Director, Public Services Branch, National Library of Canada, presented an address to The Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto. Miss Patterson spoke of the National Library of Canada's planning for a national service for visually and physically handicapped persons. She stated, "We continue to hope that principles such as the Universal Availability of Publications... will be recognized as a right of all Canadians, including the disabled, and that appropriate action will soon be taken to ensure that the handicapped are not disenfranchised by limited resources." A review of the National Library of Canada's programme provides a practical method of assessment of its effectiveness and impact on increasing UAP for Canadians who cannot read print.

Maurice B. Line outlined the five main elements of UAP in his article "Researching into the Availability of Publications". They are publication, supply, acquisition, interlending and retention. Let us consider how these elements have been acted upon in Canada's programme.

The publication, supply and acquisition of special format materials in Canada have been enhanced by the National Library of Canada by the following means:

(1.) The Canadian Registry of Works in Progress: The Canadian Registry of Works in Progress is a data base maintained on the National Library of Canada's automated system DOBIS. This data base follows regular bibliographic standards. With the cooperation of Canadian producers of special format materials for the print-handicapped, the National Library creates a machine read-

.../2

able record of intended production and alerts producers to possible duplicate production. This data base is available on-line to libraries which subscribe to the DOBIS Search Service. Producers may also telephone or use electronic mail to access the data base. Over time, decreased duplicate production will increase the availability of unique special format titles produced in Canada.

(2.) Revision of Canadian copyright legislation: Canadian copyright law is now under revision. The Advisory Group on National Library Services for Handicapped Persons, representing producers, libraries and agencies serving the disabled, advised the National Library to support the concept that non-profit production of special format materials for the print-handicapped not be subject to copyright infringement. The law has not yet been written but it is expected that this provision, if made law, will permit timely, increased production of materials.

(3.) Guidelines for the production and bibliographic control of government publications in special format: The National Library's publication, Reasonable Access, a practical guide to assist federal government departments in making their publications accessible to print-handicapped persons, was designed to provide Canadian federal government departments (collectively the largest publisher in Canada) with policy and procedures regarding special format publications. It is hoped that these guidelines will enable federal government departments to determine when, and in what format, documents should be published for the print-handicapped. This publication also gives explicit instructions on ensuring that federal government departments will follow normal bibliographic and information channels so that the publication, supply, and acquisition of these important publications may be enhanced.

(4.) The Canadian Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped: The

1270

Canadian Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped is an automated data base maintained on DOBIS and is formatted according to international bibliographic standards. It lists Canadian large print, talking books, and braille materials available for interlending in Canada. It is maintained on the same automated system (DOBIS) as the union catalogue of print materials and is available on-line and in microfiche format to libraries across Canada. This Union Catalogue has made possible the identification, location and resource sharing of special format materials within the context of regular print bibliographic tools and procedures.

(5.) A directory of interlending and duplication policies of Canadian agencies serving print handicapped persons: This directory, published annually and updated monthly, supports resource sharing activities among Canadian libraries and agencies serving the print-handicapped. It complements similar directories for regular print material and allows for interlending of special format materials within the regular context of work in interlibrary loan departments of Canadian libraries.

(6.) A national information service on national and international sources of special format materials: The Service for Handicapped Persons acts as a clearinghouse for sources of special format materials. The Service answers direct inquiries and also produces publications and lists of sources.

(7.) A programme of legal deposit for commercially produced large print and talking books: The National Library's legal deposit regulations ensure the deposit and bibliographic control of commercially produced special format materials.

Interlending (the fourth element of UAP) and resource sharing of special format materials has been strengthened by being totally integrated into the mainstream of resource sharing activities at the national level. Bibliographic information and locations are available on-line through the National

.../4

Search Service of the National Library of Canada's automated system, DOBIS. A computer-output microfiche is published and updated quarterly to allow decentralized access to records and locations of special format materials. Promotion and support of interlending have been major activities of the National Library of Canada's Service for Handicapped Persons and the Advisory Group on National Library Services for Handicapped Persons. The Service has coordinated workshops, publications, conference sessions, articles in the professional literature and produced Guidelines for Library Services for Disabled Canadians. All these efforts have had as a primary objective the development and support of resource sharing of special format materials in Canada. The Advisory Group has brought university, school, public and special librarians together to seek new methods of cooperation and make recommendations for enhancement of the resource sharing network. Through the efforts of the Advisory Group, for example, there will be subject access to the materials listed in the Canadian Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped, and a resource sharing agreement among provincial Departments of Education. International access to Canadian bibliographic data is planned through the loading of Canadian records on BLND, the United States Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's on-line database.

The final element in the UAP programme, retention, has not yet been fully implemented in Canada at the national level. Discussions on last copy deposit and retention have begun but have taken a low priority in the efforts to establish a national coordinated reading programme. Plans are now being developed for further work in this area.

Can Canada's national programme serve as a model for other nations? We believe it can. Canada's plan has always included two basic concepts: first, cooperation with other libraries and agencies serving the print handicapped; second, integration of all services into the mainstream of library services available in the country. Canada has a long tradition of private, not-for-profit, agencies which have served the library needs of the print-handicapped, and has a federal political structure which assigns responsibility for education to its provinces. Given these two factors the National Library of Canada has developed a cooperative, decentralized, coordinating role for its Service for Handicapped Persons. This model of cooperative action has worked well for us. Secondly, we have from the beginning, adhered to international standards for cataloguing and machine readable records. We have endeavoured to utilize existing policies, procedures and resources to extend and enhance access to special format materials. We have planned to integrate our resource sharing activities as thoroughly as possible with the interlending of print materials. This policy has meant that our programme of UAP for special format materials has profited from the development of regular library services without additional effort or resources on our part. Our programme has been functioning for only four years; but the increased special format materials and information resources now available to Canadians, as outlined in this paper, demonstrate the effectiveness of our national plan. Through cooperation and integration, existing services and resources have been

.../5

extended to serve the real needs of our disabled community. We feel our approach is sound and can be recommended to other countries struggling to develop national level services.

A careful analysis of the Canadian programme shows significant progress in the UAP of materials already in special format, but what of the overall objective of having UAP in the wider world of all print materials? Antun Lastric, in the November, 1985 issue of Section of Libraries for the Blind, Newsletter, calls for a United Nations resolution that every country set a goal to have every 8th print book available in special format. As we know, each country has its own traditions, structures, and economic circumstances. IFLA cannot impose or dictate national solutions. However, members can inspire and present to each nation a vision and a goal. This is the essence of the UAP programme and we must not underestimate its power to bring about needed changes. In Canada we have made significant gains in a few short years, and would like to continue to offer better access to special format materials to all our citizens. We therefore urge the widest possible discussion and consideration of Mr. Lastric's proposal and urge this meeting to support this proposal.

However, Mr. Lastric's proposal, even if fully adopted, would only go part way to providing UAP. Coupled with such a significant increase in production we would need better bibliographic control and resource sharing among nations. Each of the five elements of UAP outlined above needs significant development if the resolution is to lead to the desired conclusion. We can use the framework provided by the UAP programme to analyse our efforts and to ensure the best possible access for our citizens.

One further point needs to be made. The majority of persons with visual impairments are not totally blind and they prefer to use print. Their access to print is enhanced and prolonged with the use of technology such as magnifiers, closed circuit reading systems, and many other devices. Those who are totally blind may also extend their use of print by the use of optical character recognition reading-machines. However, these technological aids are in many cases costly, cumbersome and difficult to use.

Visually impaired people need better technology. They need cheaper, easier to use and more portable aids to extend their use of print. Appropriate technological aids are essential to a full life and full access to print publications. Only by combining our commitment to work for increased production of special format materials with a commitment to increased technological research will we realize the goal of UAP for visually impaired persons.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Professional Board. Medium-term Programme, 1986-1991. Compiled by the Professional Board of IFLA. The Hague: IFLA, 1985.

Line, Maurice B. "Researching into the Availability of Publications." Library Quarterly, Vol. 53, no. 3, July 1983. pp. 292-306.

Patterson, Flora E. International Year of Disabled Persons: Library Services Overview, January 23, 1981, Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto [typescript]. Copy available from Library Documentation Centre, National Library of Canada.

Stuart-Stubbs, Basil; Simpson, Donald B.. "Tracking the Elusive UAP: The Origin and Development of a Concept." Library Journal, Vol. 109, no. 15, Sept. 15, 1984. pp. 1719-1723.

1274

160-BLIND-6-E

IFLA - 1986

Division: Libraries Serving the General Public

Section: Libraries for the Blind

LIBRARY PROGRAMME OF THE ARTISTIC-AESTHETICAL EDUCATION OF THE BLIND CITIZENS OF RUSSIA

D.S.Zharkov,
director Republican central library
for the blind

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

Remarks:

to be presented orally ☐

for distribution only ☒

Moscow, 1986

3137

LIBRARY PROGRAMME
OF ARTISTIC-AESTHETICAL EDUCATION OF THE BLIND
CITIZENS OF RUSSIA

Assimilating aesthetical values in any way a person develops his ability for emotional experience and active sensual knowledge. It is an indispensable condition for the moral perfection of a man.

To help a blind man in comprehensing the basic principles of artistic culture, to teach him to realize and appreciate the beauty grasping it by the inner sight everywhere: in art, labour, everyday life, nature, human deeds is the responsibility of a librarian, one of his main trends of rehabilitation work in libraries for the blind.

Naturally it means not some independent arrangements, not even a campaign, but systematic and regular work on aesthetical education of the blind readers, on giving them access to the artistic creative work in which a library can skilfully use both its own means and forms of aesthetical influence and broad opportunities given by the culture institutions of the All-Russian society for the blind, by museums, theatres and cinemas, mass communication media and modern Typhlotechnique.

Assimilating rich and diverse world of artistic culture a contemporary acts as a reader, spectator and listener at a time. Therefore striving for effective impact on the formation of user's aesthetical needs a library should study him in all ways, in all his manifestation

A growing urge for the knowledge of the world of art, appreciable succes of the blind on their way towards artistic-aesthetical rehabilitation induce specialized libraries to establish contacts with houses of culture, theatres, cinema halls, museums, to create amateurs clubs, literature societies, fine arts studios, to deepen and define the propaganda of aesthetic knowledge. Particularly Tula library established contacts with the broadcasting committee and music schools which allow her to enrich its repetoire of music records. Here with

the help of books and copies they introduce the readers with the expositions of the world famous art museums, towns and cities sights, they share their impressions at the readers' conferences "A journey to the world of beauty". The libraries of Vladimir, Leningrad, Kirov and others accumulated good experience in forming aesthetic views of the blind within the limits of readers' clubs and societies. Good results have been achieved by the Kuibyshev librarians. So nowadays the practice of specialized libraries concerning the whole complex of forms and methods allows to realize the system of artistic- aesthetical training of the blind based upon the close connection of various arts. This is being done for the purpose of introduction this system in every library adding the missing parts in it, thus making it full and complete naturally bearing in mind readers' contingent.

One of the art perculiariries is the unity of emotional(sensual) and rational (logical) basis. Appealing to our feelings, arising any kind of emotion and impression an artist at the same time induces our brains making our reaction realized (not only felt).

Blindness and bad sight make the process of direct sensual knowledge difficult, sharply destroy it and thus deprive a man of the possibility to apprehend the artistic image. But serious defects and and even full blindness can be compensated by touch to some extend and the better touch experience of a blind person the higher degree of the compensation. If moreover a person has well-developed ability for knowledge, thinking, imagination and inquisitiveness, his "direct sensual knowledge of the world in case of blindness and weak sight underlines professor A.G.Litvak, enough fully and exactly reflects the reality..." (Litvak A. "Puti poznania" - Nasha zhizn. 1979, 6, p.35)

3139

Can we distribute these results in the sphere of perception of fine arts which as it is well-known is one of the forms of reality reflection? Will it go if we add artistic impression of the word to the touch experience, i.e. if we create an oral description of a painting for the blind and combine announcer's speech with the consonant music? The principle of the complex use of the embossed-graphic appliances, oral word and music has been layed as a basis for the experimental records of fine arts by RCBS employee A.V.Verzhbitsky.

Surely the propaganda of aesthetic knowledge as well as the whole work on artistic-aesthetic development of the readers in libraries for the blind should be differentiated. It means that the planned programme of work with the blind will have perculiarities which will depend on whether the programme is intended for boarding school pupils or grown-ups, for participants of amateur performances of for art amateurs and so on.

Library programme of artistic-aesthetical education of the blind schoolchildren. The organization of teachers' and parents' reading.

The Central Administration Plenum of the All-Union society for the blind adopted the creation of the joint committee that will develop the programme of artistic-aesthetical education for the blind and weak-sighted pupils in the boarding schools.

In fact the question is the preparation for the general compulsory education of the blind schoolchildren in aesthetics and appropriate organization of reading by their teachers and parents.

In general schools and in boarding schools for the blind and weak-sighted children aesthetical education problems haven't yet been solved to full extend which is the result of their theme and

content: in this case the priority is given to the aesthetical education by the means of art and aesthetics of general natural sciences and mathematics and arts (except Russian and literature), animate nature, labour, social life if pupils are often out of sight. That is why we think it important that the libraries participate in research and introduction of boarding school experience though rare. It testifies the success of teachers in using aesthetic features of cognitive and additional objects. These features are revealed by their appearance or by the essencial analysis of the inner processes and conformities, dependances and relations (the aesthetics of a flower, of Mendeleev periodic system, mathematical formula and phosics hypothesis, the beauty of the starry sky, the rainbow, the northern lights and so on). As a rule the more active rile aesthetic objects play in the process of cognition the stronger is their impact on general and artistic development of a person. A pupil shapes positive view towards the process of study, his imagination develops.

In coordinating the system of work with teachers it is very important first of all to use already established in boarding schools organizational forms. In future the practice of purposeful propaganda of aesthetic knowledge will prompt the librarian what methods should be used in some specific situation in order to make this propaganda more effective.

In many regional libraries for the blind it has become a tradition to hold taecher days (monthly, more often quarterly) during which taechers of all specialities are acquainted with literature novelties, listed to the thematical reviews, discuss progressive experience at schools throughout the country. Discussions on typhlopedagogics, typhlopsychology and typhlology in general are most popular

Within this programme regional and school libraries for the blind discussed the articles on art and architecture written by A.V.Verzhbitsky, head of the experimental record and typhlographics department of RCBS. Reviewing the discussions on RCBS experimental records V.G.Nesterenko, candidate of philosophy, a blind man, writes in his reference:"For me and the others the paramount importance of those compositions consists in expansion of cultural horizon. Frankly speaking I haven't even imagined broad possibilities of visual and what is more-aesthetical perception. I think that Verzhbitsky' method of translation visual image into touch image is rather good. If henceforth the relief illustrations are supplemented by similar compositions, it will be more interesting and useful".

Bearing in mind these wishes RCBS together with relief-graphic appliances laboratory of the Central polygraphic enterprise of the All-Union society for the blind developed a text-book - album for the purpose of teaching the blind to have spatial perception with the help of successive relief images and explanatory texts to them. All regoinal and school libraries have got this text-book. Verzhbitsky articles, experimental records, architectural models, sculpture and at last articles of applied arts all together give the opportunity to teach eye retina of the weak-sighted men "to see" and to train touching hand of the totally blind men thus opening them the way to more or less rich perception of fine arts. In future RCBS together with Typhlolaboratory will publish relief-graphic appliances on architecture and monumental sculpture. One can also find there historic-revolutionary monuments of our country. It is very important that teachers should not only be acquainted with them in time but should find ways of introducing them in their work, teachers should become

propagandistsof fine arts among pupils.

In the coming years using architectural monument models, copies of extraordinary sculptures mobile exhibition of fine arts and architecture masterpieces is to be created and shown in all regions, territories and autonomous republics of Russia, in all boarding schools for the blind and weak-sighted children.

The system of work with parents plays an important role in the system of artistic-aesthetical education of schoolchildren. The united principles of children education at school and at home elaborated by the Soviet Typhlographics and typhlopsychology should become methodical basis for this work. The main task of a library in its work with parents is to help to create good reading atmosphere in families. So broadcasting of pedagogical readings on such themes as "Art in our life", "Aesthetical education of children in families", "At home we should speak correctly", "How to form culture of behaviour in schoolchildren" seems to be necessary. In each school books and literature reviews should be selected according to these themes.

The importance of collective listening to "speaking" books about culture aesthetics, various arts, loud reading (by the family member who can see) of popular brochures, articles from journals followed by discussion in family is very high. This is the most effective way to form reading atmosphere in family. To help family readings RCBS has done lists of literature on art and aesthetics for small, middle and school age children.

RCBS started to publish two quarterly sound collections. The first is "Ethics and aesthetics", it is oriented to the intellectual workers and is of great interest for the teachers. The second "Art for all" has popularizing character.

"The plan of differencized service of the blind, complex propaganda of literature, implementation of progressive experience"

made by RCBS and sent to all libraries for the blind is a good basis for the planning of aesthetical work.

LIBRARIES ARE PARTICIPANTS OF AMATEUR ART

The role that amateur art plays in aesthetical education of a person can hardly be overestimated. Pursuit of amateur creative work helps to form and develop aesthetical tastes and feelings, teachs people not only to percieve the beauty but to create it.

The popularity of artistic creative work, the growth of professional mastership presuppose high demands towards the quality of library-bibliography maintenance of their needs.

Regional libraries for the blind and their branches at the enterprises help the instructors of the groups and the readers to choose repertoire, give information on new literature, organize loud readings and tape-recordings of interesting things, to order and to recieve necessary books through interlibrary subscription.

For more than 10 years RCBS have been publishing bobliography of literature for singers, accorgoinists, members of other creative groups. Contacts between libraries and amateur groups have obviously become stronger of late. More frequently librarians become leaders of hobby groups, clubs, creative societies that allows to organize purposefully readings, to vary mass forms of art and literature propaganda.

Thanks to the close ties of libraries with amateur groups the All-Union society for the blind combines successfully the artistic practice with art teaching, the training of practical methods with forming broadmindedness and creative way of thinking of the blind.

Amateur activity of the blind, first of all musical, exposed many real talents. The librarians constantly lead the propaganda of music in general and particularly of the creative work of the

blind amateur composers and performers: they record the performances and suggest them to the readers, they create interesting sound collections. The involvement of professional misicians in propaganda of music culture, in participation in broad enlightment seems very important.

Libraries work with the blind teachers of music is also very important. More than 1600 blind people teach in music schools, colleges and institutes. Many of them are the leaders of amateur groups. All of them are interested in getting information about music literature news, in publication new methodical text-books.

The rewriting of dictated notes according to Bryle from flat-print is the most urgent need for teachers. The responsibility of the libraries for the blind is to.help them systematically in this work and to involve librarians who work in note-music sections and musicians who can see.

Everything that is done in music propaganda should have bibliographies that will inspire listeners and spectator's desire to deepen and widen his perception drawing his attention to books.

Libraries for the blind amateurs of art.

Many blind people while speaking of the strong influence of cinema and theatre on their life and activities underline that regular visits to the theatre, contacts with those who can see help them to adapt in a cinema hall, to understand films better. The process of deep and serious perception in films and performances goes quicker and more effective if they have.good comments.

Collective visits to the theatre and to the cinema have become a tradition in working collectives of the All-Union society for the blind. Librarians should use them in propaganda of literature, creative work of writers, playwrights and poets, corresponding

documents and publicism thus enriching readers' and spectators' perception.

Each library should work to give bibliography to clubs, lectures and universities of culture. The primary attention especially in large libraries should be paid to collection of books for reading according to the themes.

Mass art propaganda should be confirmed by tedious purposeful individual work with a reader. Capable guidance of reading process will allow to expose reader's interests and talents to certain arts, to create necessary conditions for deep study of art, to accustom to creative work.

The problems of forming aesthetic culture among the blind have found the most full reflection in text-books at the Republican central library for the blind. "The blind in the world of art" and "The role of specialized libraries in artistic-aesthetical development of the blind".

ГБЛ зав 898 мир. Fay

3146